(b) No, Sir.

(c) M/s Reliance Infocom Ltd. as a Basic Operator was provided TAX POI at the Civil Lines OCB Local-cum-TAX Telephone Exchange of Allahabad in the year 2003 for handover of its originating STD/ISD calls.

(d) It was permitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Interconnect Agreement and as per the framework prescribed in the license granted by Department of Telecom to M/s Reliance.

(e) No loss of revenue resulted to BSNL on account of this permission.

Acronyms:

SDCC-Short Distance Charging Centre

LDCC-Long Distance Charging Centre

TAX-Trunk Automatic Exchange

POI-Point of Interconnect.

Development of forest villages

*218. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Afforestation and Eco Development Board is involved in the development of forest villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the schemes in force to provide minimum facilities for the forest dwelling scheduled tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) A specific scheme for development of forest villages titled "Development of Forest Villages" is being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) of the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). Under the scheme, funds are provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the Tribal or Social Welfare Department of States which in turn provides funds to the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs). The scheme aims to provide basic infrastructural facilities like approach roads, drinking water, healthcare, minor irrigation etc. and support to the livelihood of the villagers. The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) does not directly implement this scheme, it assists the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in examination of the proposals received from State under this scheme. The NAEB has also issued guidelines in April 2004 to assist the formulation of projects under the scheme.

As per information provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, proposals covering 2388 forest villages/habitations in 11 States have been approved and a total amount of Rs. 45924.71 lakhs have been released during 2005-06 to 2007-08 (as on 15-11-2007) under the Development of Forest Villages Scheme. The State wise details are enclosed as per statement.

Statement

State-wise details of funds under Development of Forest villages

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of forest villages	Total No. of forest villages supported	Total fund released so far (Rs. In lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Assam	499	475	5876.42
2	Chhattisgarh	425	422	9554.37
3	Gujarat	199	199	4007.00
4	Jharkhand	24	24	303.58
5	Meghalaya	23	23	390.71
6	Madhya Pradesh	893	867	19492.07
7	Mizoram	85	85	1710.00
8	Orissa	20	20	290.60
9	Tripura	62	62	930.00
10	Uttarakhand*	61	41	566.96
11	UP	13	0	0.00
12	West Bengal	170	170	2803.00
	TOTAL	2474	2388	45924.71

*Forest Habitations

FICCI recommendations for road projects

*219. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with road development projects in the country running into time and cost overruns in most places, industry experts have called for the formation of an independent regulatory authority to govern the sector;

(b) whether the report released by FICCI indicates delays in road projects due to issues of land acquisition, law and order, obtaining clearances and removing encroachments;

(c) if so, the main recommendations made in its report; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to implement the suggestions made to develop roads in India?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) According to Press release by FICCI, delays in road projects have been due to issues of land acquisitions, law and order, obtaining clearances and removing encroachments. FICCI has suggested establishment of an independent regulatory authority.